

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AUTO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND TRADE
PLEDGE

1. AT FEB. 11 MEETING OF OECD COUNCIL, SEC GEN VAN
LENNEP MADE STATEMENT ON SUBJECT OF AUSTRALIAN AUTO
IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. HE NOTED VARIOUS TRADE MEASURES
HAD BEEN EXAMINED RELATIVE TO THE OECD TRADE PLEDGE,
SUCH AS BEEF RESTRICTIONS, AND SAID HE FELT AUSTRALIAN
AUTO RESTRICTIONS WERE ALSO OF SIGNIFICANCE. VAN LENNEP
RECALLED PLEDGE ALLOWED GATT ARTICLE 19 TYPE ACTIONS
"NOT LINKED WITH THE SITUATION DESCRIBED IN THE DECLAR-
ATION" BUT HE FELT, AND BELIEVED OECD MEMBERS HAD
GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT AUTO SECTOR WAS PRECISELY ONE
AREA WHERE OIL CRISIS WOULD HAVE IMPACT AND COULD LEAD
TO PRESSURES FOR TRADE-RESTRICTIVE ACTION. HE SAID WE
WERE CONFRONTED WITH POSSIBLE CHAIN REACTION OF SIMILAR
ACTIONS TAKEN BY OTHER COUNTRIES, AND SUGGESTED IT
MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR OECD TO LOOK AT ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS
OF AUTO INDUSTRY. THIS COULD INCLUDE ACHIEVING BETTER
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UNDERSTANDING BY MEMBERS OF SITUATION IN INDUSTRY AND

OF PLANS FOR ADJUSTMENT. SECGEN INDICATED HE WOULD REFLECT FURTHER ON MATTER, CONSULT WITH DELS, AND POSSIBLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN COUNCIL OR ELSEWHERE IN OECD.

2. AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE EMPHASIZED INCREASED IMPORTS, POTENTIAL FOR MASSIVE LAYOFFS IN INDUSTRY, AND CHANGES IN TARIFFS AND EXCHANGE RATES WHICH HAD LED TO PRESENT SITUATION. AUSTRALIAN REP ALSO NOTED TEMPORARY TRADE ACTION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEASURES TO ASSIST INDUSTRY IN LONGER TERM ADJUSTMENT, AND OFFERED CONSULTATIONS ON AUSTRALIAN ACTION IN TRADE COMMITTEE.
TURNER

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